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Response To Office Action

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Group Art Unit: 3632

Applicant: Donald Tilton

Serial No.: 10 / 840,012

Filed: May 6, 2004

Title: Baluster Hanger

Response to first Office action (7 pages)

This fax cover sheet (1)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Donald Tilton
Serial No.: 10 / 840,012
Filed: May 6, 2004
Title: Baluster Hangar

Date: June 5, 2006
Group Art Unit: 3632
Examiner: Steven M. Marsh

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

This response is to a first Office action dated March 17, 2006.

The Examiner first objects to the claims 1 and 2 in that the word "hangar" should be "hanger". The applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to change all appearances of the word "hangar" to "hanger".

The Examiner's same objection to the word "hangar" also applies to the title of the application. By way of this amendment the applicant would like to change the title of the application from "Baluster Hangar" to "Baluster Hanger". Please have this change made to the records in the patent office.

The Examiner next rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 112 "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.". Continuing, the Examiner states that:

"In claim 1, Applicant recites the limitations "furthest from the hook and" "nearest the hook" for the first and third cross rods, respectively. However, Applicant does not clarify what the rods are nearest and furthest to the hook with respect to. Claim 2 claims the apparatus of a hanger in the preamble, but then claims the steps of a process of attaching the hanger to the sides of balusters. It is unclear whether Applicant is attempting to claim a baluster or a method for mounting a baluster. Claim 2 also recites the limitation "the balusters" and "the first cross bar" in the 1st and 2nd sentences. There is insufficient antecedent basis